



Quarterly Report to the Citizens

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Manitou Citizens,

Before we know if the grass (those that have it) will have to be mowed, our flower gardens weeded, and spring cleanup will be in motion and our small city will be hosting visitors to the parks, special attractions and our Historic District downtown. There was an interesting article in a Sunday Denver Post recently about the towns of 200, or larger cities, around the State that are strategizing on how to improve their outstanding community interests and lure visitors to their area in order to increase economic vitality for their well-being. We are fortunate that Manitou Springs has so many natural sites that draw people to our community and, particularly, the new interest in heritage tourism (learning more about the history of buildings, etc.).

Let's make sure we are ready to receive tourists with a clean downtown – swept sidewalks – shiny window fronts – flowers – and best of all, friendly words of welcome. Our city staff will do our best to assist you by maintaining our parks, buildings and restrooms.

The cleanup of our streets, both downtown and in our neighborhoods, will be enhanced with a new street sweeper. Our old machine was clearly not functioning even

marginally well, so our Council folks will be considering a financial proposal to put a new one on our streets.

Finally, Council has not determined what water restrictions, if any, will be placed on consumer users this summer. We will wait until early May and see if our April will be as wet as we need for runoff during the summer months. Meanwhile, please continue to be water savers and check out hose leaks and check your watering system inside and outside of your home or business, because all of us are affected by a shortage of water. Our Water Conservation Committee is coming up with some suggestions for council members to consider in the near future.

Again, a special thanks to all our volunteers on Boards and Committees for the many hours they contribute to our city and its needs. They do a great job!

Sincerely,

Marcy Morrison

Mayor

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CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS

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THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

By Fred Burmont, *City Administrator*

Last year the El Paso County Information Technologies Department developed a new web site for the City—at no cost to the City. That web site is operational under a new URL address at www.manitousprings-co.gov. During February and March we updated the new web site with all information from our old web site and posted new meeting agendas, minutes of meetings, monthly reports, the entire City Charter and Municipal Code and our FY2004 Budget.

Just like last year, during the month of March, our City Council finalized the “Top Ten” goals for the year. Some are the same as last year—some are revised—and some are entirely new.

In regard to the #1 goal Protect our water sources, improve our water system and promote water conservation, I am pleased to report that our reservoir remains 100% full and is spilling some excess water. However, as is typical for the winter months, total water flowing into our reservoir is down but the snow pack in our watershed has not begun to melt, and the normally heavy spring snows have not yet fallen. Our new telemetry equipment allows us to better manage our water flows from the two creeks that feed into our water treatment plant, and a “leak noise logger system” has been installed in critical locations to monitor and report system leaks on an on-going basis.

The #2 goal is Implement the Manitou Master Plan and Avenue Plan. On January 1 we began collecting the .3% increase in our sales tax that was authorized by the voters last November. On January 6 our Finance Director, Mike Leslie, presented to City Council the results of competitive bids for the \$1,850,000 financing. The sale was completed, and proceeds received on March 11.

Early in January we met with representatives of Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to submit the requisite documents for the \$276,000 Phase IA “Shoshone Spring demonstration project,” the \$300,000 Phase 2A Streetscape project (Manitou Avenue from the Public Library to Town Clock Park) and the \$121,000 Creekwalk Phase I project. In February the Board of Directors of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) voted to recommend to CDOT that \$95,000 of our \$500,000 Metro grant application for 2007 be approved for funding in 2004. In March we submitted applications for \$2,075,000 of additional grant funding for the years 2007-2009.

The City’s design and engineering contractor, Nolte and Associates, has completed the surveying and begun the preliminary design. We formed a “project management group” consisting of City staff, Nolte, CDOT, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), our Economic Development Commission, the Business Improvement District, the Chamber of Commerce, the Metro District and a representative from each of the City boards and commissions—to meet biweekly to discuss the project. Agendas for, and summaries of, these bi-weekly meetings are included in the “Springs Ahead” link on the City’s new web site.

In regard to the long-standing #3 goal to Renovate the Historic Spa building, during February and March our Planning staff met with a prospective redeveloper of the building to discuss the process for Planning Commission and Council consideration of a Major Development application. The developer submitted a preliminary application in March.

In regard to the #4 goal to Increase revenues for businesses and for the City, as a way to measure economic activity, our Finance Department publishes a monthly report of retail sales and sales tax collections. On a year-to-date basis for the entire 12 months of 2003, total sales taxes were down 2.2% for in-city businesses and, overall, .5% behind last year. For the one month of January 2004, the news is better—in-city businesses were up 1.1% and overall sales taxes were up 1.9% compared to last January.

As a step to accomplishing the #5 goal to Underground Overhead Utilities along Manitou Avenue from East Arch to West Arch, during February we met with representatives of CSU to discuss the costs of undergrounding their electric utility lines in the downtown business area, and along Manitou Avenue east and west of downtown. We will be meeting with representatives of Qwest and Adelphia to discuss undergrounding their telephone and cable television lines, respectively.

Related to the #8 goal to Improve Public Safety, after nearly six months of consideration, on February 17 City Council voted to outsource our Dispatch function to the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office as a way to enhance our emergency responses at no increase in cost. However, the implementation of that decision has been deferred until this issue can be considered, along with all other budget needs and the sources of revenue to fund those needs, this fall.

These are the major projects that contributed during this first quarter to achieving some of the 2004 “Top Ten” goals. It should be recognized that there are a number of specific programs planned to achieve the goals and that there are many on-going activities already completed by our City Departments—as described in their respective reports.

To find out what is happening in Manitou Springs you are welcome to attend City Council meetings the first and third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue.

You are also welcome to volunteer in your city government by becoming a member of a board or commission.

Finance Department moves into 2004

By Mike Leslie, *Finance Director*

\$2,075,000 through 2009.

Beginning Year General Fund Balance

Preliminary financials, as adjusted by our auditors, indicate that the City's General Fund ended 2003 and began FY2004 with an unreserved fund balance of \$412,478 and a TABOR reserve of \$119,796. The General Fund earned \$3,875,816 in revenues, which was \$13,695 less than budgeted, and expended \$3,823,377 that was \$51,138 less than budgeted for expenditures. In December 2003, City Council anticipated an unreserved general fund balance of \$349,860 to begin FY2004.

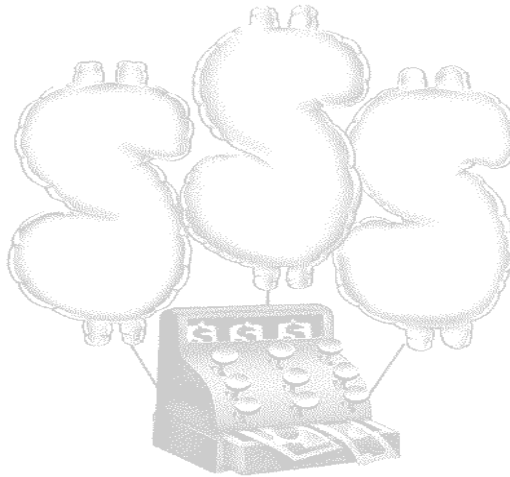
The City's Y2003 Audit is scheduled for presentation to City Council at their regular council meeting by the accounting firm of Jaspers + Hall, PC, on April 20, 2004. Jaspers + Hall, PC purchased the accounting firm previously headed by Bob Bressan, who had audited the City's financial statements for a number of years. The Finance Department is planning to solicit proposals for auditing services later this year to satisfy City Charter provisions.

Downtown Revitalization

In accordance with the voters wishes, the Finance Department solicited proposals last December to finance the City's \$1,850,000 project fund, to perform our downtown revitalization. The agreement for financing was awarded to Municipal Capital Markets Group, Inc.(MCM) on January 7, who provided the capital, through a bond sale, for our project fund at an interest rate of 4.523% over 16 years with a total repayment of \$2,785,302. The MCM offering was selected from 11 bids by 4 other lending institutions based on its suitability and final cost. Bond payments will be paid by the revenues generated by the City's voter approved .3% sales and use tax increase, which began January 1.

One purpose of this capital is to provide matching funds for grants towards completion of the revitalization project. To date, the City has obtained financial commitments of \$576,000, in the form of TEA-21 and Metro grants, for fiscal years 2004 and 2005. The City has submitted applications for further grants totaling

Phase 1A, of our downtown revitalization project, is the Shoshone Springs Demonstration Project, located in the 900 block of Manitou Avenue. A pedestrian plaza will be built around the Shoshone Spring building. This is the City's first step to enhance pedestrian safety, upgrade sidewalks, landscaping, street furniture, historic sidewalk and street lighting, drainage facilities, and the burial of overhead utility lines. In addition, there will be other measures to improve traffic congestion, parking, historic preservation and visual aspects of the downtown area. In January, City Council entered into a contract with Nolte and Associates for preliminary design of the entire project, as well as final design and construction management of the Shoshone Spring Demonstration Project. Construction is scheduled to begin this July.



Tax Enforcement Ordinances

In late December 2003, City Council approved ordinances amending Chapter 3.12 of the Municipal Code concerning the collection of sales, excise and lodging taxes, and added additional procedures for the enforcement and collection of those taxes. The code revisions provide procedures to conduct audits, issue assessments, attach liens and perform distraint and sale in cases of tax delinquency. In mid-April, members of the Finance Department will receive training from the Colorado Government Fi-

nance Officer's Association concerning sales tax auditing.

The Year's Performance in Sales Tax

The City of Manitou Springs, like other cities its size, relies upon the Colorado Department of Revenue to collect its sales tax. This dependence results in a two-month lag between the time sales actually occur and are forwarded to the City by the Department of Revenue. The City collected sales taxes for the months of November and December 2003 in January and February 2004, respectively. The City experienced a weaker November and stronger December to finish 2003, collecting \$1,570,943, that was 0.5% lower than sales taxes collected in 2002. (continued on page 5)

Fire Department

By Keith Buckmiller, *Fire Chief*

This quarter the Fire Department has spent considerable time on preparing for the summer influx of people to include the Wildland Fire Fighting and High Angle Rescue. The fire department has hosted weekly trainings on medical and fire situations that become more prevalent in the summer months.

The department currently completed the Red Card training and certification for our Wildland Firefighting team. We are in the process of completing the 20 hour refresher for all of our High Angle team; this is a yearly requirement.

With the arrival of Spring and Summer the fire department is once again working with the County and State on the "Fire Wise program." For those of you unfamiliar with the program it allows us to do home inspections, at the homeowner's request, and recommend changes to the exterior of your property to keep it safer in the event of a wildland fire. For anyone interested in having a home inspection please contact Brad Dorris at 685-1444, to schedule a time.

This month the Department says good-bye to 2 of its paid staff. Kenny McMenimen, and Mike Evers both are in the newest recruit class for the City of Colorado Springs. Both will be missed. With that the Fire Department is currently going through its testing phase to hire 2 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Firefighters.

Remember spring cleanup is the key to us successfully defending your home in the event of a Wildland Fire.



City Telephone Numbers

New Web Address.....	www.manitoussprings-co.gov
Accounts Payable	685-2565
Administration.....	685-5596
City Clerk	685-2554
Code Enforcement	685-2543
Finance Department	685-5481
Fire Dept. (non emergency).....	685-1444

Hall Rental Information	685-2565
Library	685-5206
Planning Department.....	685-4398
Police Dept. (non emergency).....	685-5407
Public Services.....	685-2573
Swimming Pool.....	685-9735
Water Billing.....	685-2579

Finance Department (continued from Page 3)

The City received sales taxes representing sales occurring in January on March 12. Sales taxes collected in the month of January 2004, were received by the Finance Department on March 12, 2004. After adjustments, taxable sales in January 2004 came in at \$2,068,944, compared to \$2,030,861 in January 2003. This represents a 1.9% increase in taxable sales. Sales taxes collected increased from \$73,111 in January 2003 to \$80,689 in January 2004. The proportionately larger figure representing sales taxes collected on taxable sales is attributed to the .3% sales tax increase approved by voters last November, effective January 1.

During the first quarter, the Finance Department received business license applications for 15 new businesses operating within the city.

Sewer User Charges

Per City Ordinance, 13.16.020, residential sewer user charges are established once a year and remain in effect for a period of one year. The City of Manitou Springs relies on Colorado Springs Utilities to treat our wastewater. CSU meters the total wastewater generated by the City and bills the City accordingly. Since there are no residential sewer meters to determine the sewer usage of individual residences,

the determination of the sewer user charge is based upon the amount of water consumed by each residence during a one-month period, commencing on or about January 15.

This period is called the measurement period, and was specifically selected so that lawn watering and irrigation would not factor into sewer usage charges.

Water Restrictions Imposed Because of Drought Conditions

The Finance Department has traditionally been the initial point of contact concerning the city's water restrictions. The Finance Department continues to maintain a telephone information line at 685-5481, extension 3333. Water restrictions remain at level 0 and in effect water restrictions have been removed, as legislated by City Council by resolution on December 2, 2003. Water levels at the City's reservoir remain at a spilling level; however, this March was reported to be the warmest and driest March since 1911, and it is possible that water restrictions will be necessary again this summer. City Council may re-instate any level of water restrictions, by resolution, that requires only one public hearing. The Finance Department will continue to maintain the up-to-date water restriction status on the telephone information line.

Police Volunteer/ Reserve Police Officer Program

By Robert Swain, *Police Lieutenant*

In the mid 1970's through the early 1980's the Manitou Springs Police reserve force was at its pinnacle in service to this community. The reserve unit at one time consisted of twenty five members, Chief MaryJo Smith and Sergeant James Hopkins were two original members. Our City Council has directed Chief MaryJo Smith to look into and spear head starting a police reserve program. Currently the Manitou Springs Police Department is in the planning stages of starting the police reserve program, however with a Community Oriented Police based philosophy.

The program will be under the direct supervision of Sergeant Chris Clement. Sergeant Clements will be

assisted by MPO Rob McPherson and Officer Alex Powers, they will be the coordinators for the reserves. This team will be responsible for program implementation which will include scheduling, training and uniform issues as well as coordinating policies and procedures specific to being a Manitou Springs Police Reservist.

The reserve police will consist initially of five persons from the Community who would be POST certified (Police Officer Standards Testing).

These persons would first go through a testing process just as a fulltime officer; they then will go through a Police Training Officer Program of 14 weeks

with an integration period with a fulltime sworn police officer during the training cycle. (continued on page 8)



Planning Department

By Todd Liming, *Planning Director*

Spa Building

Staff has met at least twice this quarter with a group of investors who have an option to purchase the Spa Building. In March, we began evaluating a Major Development application submitted by this group for the renovation. Staff has already responded with a request for additional information. Generally, the proposal involves a mixed-use project with ground floor retail uses (including artist's studios) and residential lofts above. The applicants have expressed interest in retaining the historic exterior of the building and in pursuing any applicable state grants.

Meetings

Planning Staff attended a wide variety of public meetings this month. Apart from hosting our three regular Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Open Space Advisory Committee meetings, we also attended a special meeting on parking and several meetings on the Downtown Streetscape project. As a follow-up, staff has helped to assemble many planning documents for Nolte and Associates, including a draft of the preliminary plans for under-grounding utilities along Manitou Avenue and topographic and drainage information.

US Highway 24 update

Members of City Council and staff met last spring with several prospective consultants over the CDOT RFP for capacity improvements on US Hwy 24 between Manitou Springs and I-25. CDOT representatives have assured us that the project will not involve any blasting or highway widening within Manitou Springs. Staff looks forward to working with THK, the City's original consultant on the Manitou Avenue Master Plan and now a member of CDOT's Hwy 24 consultant team, on this very important and sensitive highway project.

Grants Management

Creekwalk Trail, Phase 1 – The City is pursuing the design and construction of a significant trail connection from Schryver Park under the US Hwy 24 overpass to the Fields Community Park (skate park, tennis courts & playground). Council adopted a resolution in support of the federal enhancement grant for this project and the City has received a signed copy of the grant contract. Staff has also hosted two site visits with engineering firms to get estimates for costs of the engineering design, bid document preparation and construction management.

Code Enforcement

of the year has been quite active. Over the past three months, he has handled a total of 165 code enforcement matters. These involve a wide range of issues including the removal of trash and debris, the issuance of necessary permits (including building, grading and signs), the removal or proper storage of junk vehicles, the issuance of business licenses, handling of loose/vicious animals, and a wide variety of miscellaneous or emergency assistance. Our Code Enforcement Officer also serves as our Municipal Court bailiff two days a month, and as liaison to the Public Services, Police, and Fire Departments.

Keithley Subdivision

Staff has attended several City Council special hearings regarding this subdivision, including three in March. Staff is pleased with the progress being made towards completion of the developer's commitments, overall.

Historic Plaque program

The Planning Department is working with the Colorado Historical Society and a local firm in getting 30 historical plaques completed. Staff anticipates the plaque installations will begin later this spring or early this summer.

Intern

We are working with the Colorado Center for Community Development to use an intern (largely state funded) in town to assist staff in developing a master list of drought tolerant grasses, plants, shrubs and trees for each of the three general planting zones – along the Avenue, in the primary residential areas, and in the hillside and open space areas.

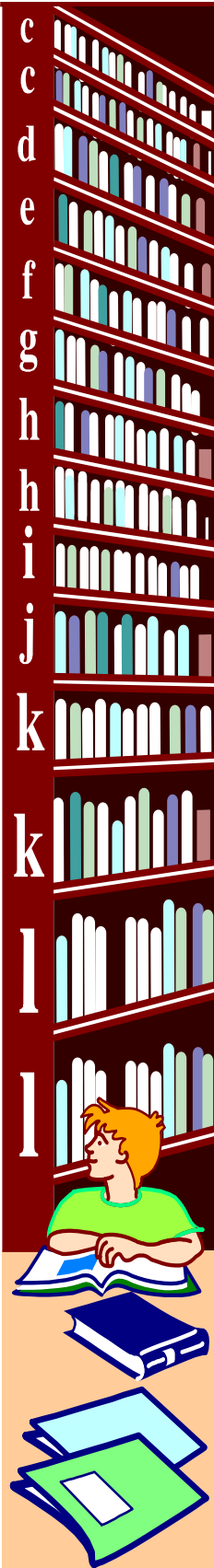
Building Permits

The Planning Department's review of building permit applications has picked up dramatically during the end of the first quarter. Through March 31, we have issued a total of 54 building permit applications this year. The number of permits issued in March matched the total number of permits issued during January and February. Overall, these permits involve improvements of over \$99,000 and nearly \$3,500 in use tax collections.

Staff

Cheri Mills, our capable Administrative Assistant, has been removed from her probationary status and now serves as a regular employee. She has also been working with the City Administrator and Department Managers to refine our quarterly reports.

Public Library



By Linda Tuttle-Shaw, *Library Director*

National Library Week, April 18 - 24

While library budget cuts have hurt services in 40 states, communities throughout the country are planning their annual celebration of National Library Week, April 18-24. This comes at a time when public library visits have reached an all-time high. In the past decade, visits have more than doubled to almost 1.2 billion annually, and a record-setting 1.79 billion items were borrowed from libraries in one year alone! We have experienced similar percentage increases at the local level – circulation and usage statistics have been steadily rising at the Manitou Springs Library for the past five years. And what a bargain libraries are! Nationally, Americans spend less than the average cost of one hardcover book - about \$25 a year - to support libraries. In return, we offer bestsellers and more, Internet access, free children's and adult's programs, tax assistance, reference service...truly something for everyone! Did you know that when you shop in Manitou Springs, your sales tax dollars go into the City's General Fund that supports the Library? It's true! So if you haven't visited us recently, National Library Week is a great time to come in – we'll be serving refreshments every day of the week!

Discover New Trails at Your Library This Summer!

Join us this summer for an expanded Summer Reading Program for elementary and middle schoolers! Ms. Dianne is busily preparing lots of fun activities based around this year's "hiking/camping" theme. There will be map-making, a Mineral Springs hike, a "camping day," nature crafts, "create your own trail mix," a "mystery picture" hunt around town, and our final party with prize drawing will be held at our local swimming pool! Activities will take place from 10:30 to 11:30 Friday mornings June 11 - July 23. We will also offer an independent reading program open to all. Space is limited for Friday sessions; call the Library to register, 685-5206.

Upcoming Toddler Storytimes

Drop-in Toddler Storytime is offered each

Thursday at 10:00:

- May 6: Happy Birthday to You!
- May 13: Five Green and Speckled Frogs
- May 20: Eric Carle Books
- May 27: Wheels, Trains, Boats & Planes
- June 3: Over the Rainbow
- June 10: Tweety Birds
- June 17: *Dianne gone, no Storytime*
- June 24: Light and Shadow
- July 1: Going Buggy
- July 8: Camping Stories
- July 15: Sea Creatures Menagerie
- July 22: Come Climb a Tree With Me
- July 29: Dianne's Favorites

Book Groups

Our Nonfiction Book Group meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.; anyone who has read the book is welcome:

- April 19: Undaunted Courage, by Stephen Ambrose
- May 17: The Professor and the Madman, by Simon Winchester
- June 21: Krakatoa, by Simon Winchester

Our Fiction Book Group meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.; anyone who has read the book is welcome:

- April 1: The Bonesetter's Daughter, by Amy Tan
- May 6: The Round-Heeled Woman, by Jane Juska
- June 3: The Conservationist, by Nadine Gordimer

More Gates Computers

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we received two new computers in February. All of our adult computers now have Internet access and Microsoft Office software. Four computers (two adult, two children's) also have reference and educational games/software. Due to issues with inappropriate content being displayed on our very public computer screens, the decision was made this month to install filtering software. So far it is working well, blocking what it's supposed to, and vice versa! An Internet access permission slip, signed by a parent/guardian, is still required for all patrons aged 17 and under.

Police Department

By MaryJo Smith, *Police Chief*

There is a noticeable change in the Police Department. There is a supervisor on every shift. There was an appointment of a new Lieutenant, Robert Swain. The officers that were promoted to the rank of Sergeant are Officer James Hopkins - day shift, Sergeant Richard Williams - evening shift, and Sergeant Chris Clements - midnight shift. Detective, James Marion was promoted to the rank of Corporal. The Administrative staff have collateral duties in addition to their daily supervision.

Year to date training has been attended by various officers to include: First Responders Methamphetamine Lab, Interview and Interrogation, Search and Seizure and legal updates, Courtroom Testimony, Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement, a five-day class at the Drug Enforcement Administration, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Precision Driving, Level 1, Traffic Accident Investigation, and a three-day Police Training Officer class.

The department has purchased three MX-26 Taser guns. There will be training on this unit through the Colorado Springs Police Department. The use of the taser will be written into the new police policies and procedures. The City's liability insurance company is pleased that the City of Manitou Springs will be using this device. Colorado Springs Police and El Paso County Sheriff's Department are already using the taser guns. They are at the same level as other non-lethal force devices, such as pepper spray, for example. The fact that officers do not "lay hands" on a suspect, until he/she obeys the direct orders of the officer to comply, provides for a chance of less injury to either party. Its use has decreased the use of force complaints against officers. The taser guns are bright yellow, so, although it represents a second weapon, it is customer friendly. The use of the taser will be that of a verbal

command, followed by the officer deploying the taser and displaying an arc with the command. If the suspect does not comply, the taser will emit a dart, which will insert into the skin. The dart sends an electronic shock to the body's central nervous system. Officers will call medical to remove the dart and only a band-aid will be necessary after the removal. The effect of deploying the taser has been positive in the public eye, as it has resulted in a decrease of officer related injuries as well as arrestee injuries.

I requested El Paso County Sheriff's Department conduct an audit of the Manitou Springs Police Department in August of 2003. The department had not had any major changes in years. I wanted to bring the department up to a higher standard and wanted the opinion of an outside, accredited agency. Sheriff Terry Maketa assigned Lieutenant Glen Athey. Lt. Athey provided a very well documented and comprehensive report. Mayor Morrison appointed a Task Force to identify what changes could be made within the department. The Task Force identified top priorities. One which was to update the police policies and procedures manual. The new draft of a manual will be completed by April 15.

The highest priority issues, as work on the policy manual ensues, are use of force policies, vehicle pursuit policies, professional standards, citizen commendations and complaints, discipline and corrective action and personnel investigations. Another set of priorities includes such things as pay and benefits, performance appraisals, turnover and retention, training, and salary market studies. The department is working on a five-year strategic plan for the department. This plan will include the purchasing of a records management system and other technology needs.

Volunteer/Reserve Police Officer Program

(continued from page 5)

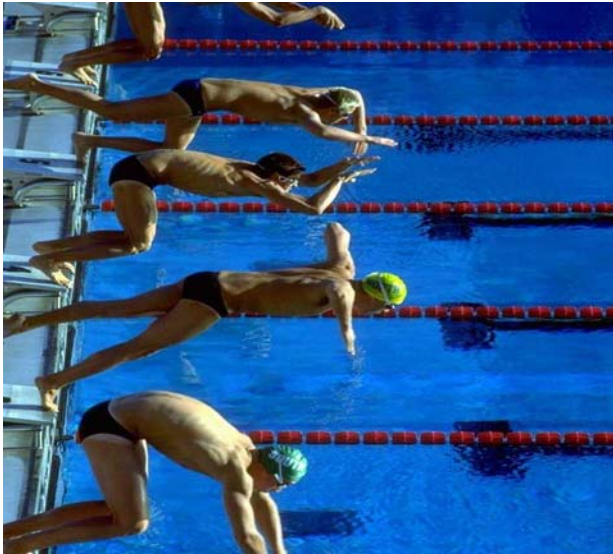
and under the immediate supervision of a full-time sworn officer. Reservists will be committed to a specific number of hours to work each month and will be responsible for maintaining the same standards of professionalism and job related as a full-time sworn officer.

The benefits of a program like this to the community are

that these reservists will be picked from the community itself, they could be business people, professionals in another field or retired persons looking for a challenge. There is no cost to the City Budget as most of the uniforms and equipment supplied will be from officers that have left the department. If there is a cost it would be minimal and the department will cover these minimal costs. (continued page 10)

Swimming Pool

Jackie Clark, *Aquatic Director*



Manitou Pool has been booming so far this year! We are so looking forward for what's to come. We are very proud of the quality of life that the pool has provided for every age group in the community.

Manitou Pool has seen 7,400 people this quarter alone. Our staff has taught 220 children swim lessons to this point. In the winter, the pool just teaches lessons to Manitou school children. The staff at the elementary school has been a delight to work with. Some generous donations by our members have provided 2 scholarships for children this quarter for lessons. We appreciate their thoughtfulness and kindness for the children of Manitou.

Punch card sales are up also for this quarter over the previous years. So far, the pool has sold 226 punch cards and 14 memberships. Manitou Pool keeps getting bigger and stronger each year.

The summer programs are looking fantastic! The morning daycare swim lessons are completely full for the entire summer. The time slots filled up in February. The summer schedule for public swim lessons are in the process.

Spring break was very busy for the pool. The most people we had attend the recreational swim in the afternoon was 92. Five groups booked the pool for the week—Boy Scouts, Nova Synchronized Swim Team, and 3 different preschools.

The weight training class has been a huge success for the

pool. The class has been a nice addition to our health and fitness. Another class is scheduled April 16 for six weeks. In this class, our goal is to build muscle mass, lose fat tissue, and change eating habits.

The scuba class has been completed. The class was full and everyone including the instructor had a great time. The Diver's Reef thoroughly enjoyed our pool.

This year, the pool had 2 Senior learn to swim classes. Their enthusiasm was fantastic and brought new energy to their quality of life and enjoyment of the water.

The Health Fair is coming to Manitou. Manitou Pool will have a booth at the fair on April 24 to hand out information and to answer questions.

The Broadmoor Hotel had its annual Physical Fitness Conference. Two instructors attended the class. Look for great things on our deck and in the park this summer.

The big news is the new filtration system. Front Range Pools did a great job on installation. It only took four days to cut up the old system and put in the new system. The system itself weighed 600 pounds. Front Range took pictures and sent the pictures to the company that they bought the system from. Manitou Pool will be on their website to show that anything can be done to rejuvenate an old pool.

The upstairs, at the pool, has been taken down to the bare boards. The whole upstairs has been dried out, and all the boards have been treated for mold. The pool ran into a temporary obstacle with the structure upstairs. This did not affect the business of the pool what so ever. It was business, but not quite as usual. Public Service has been very valuable and helpful with the repairs of the upstairs.

All our Friends of the pool have been meeting once a month. Our wheels are turning on different fundraisers for the pool. We are working at a rummage sale for the end of May. Betsy Miller has been very busy looking for grants for the pool. Betsy's dedication is greatly appreciated.

Volunteer/Reserve Police Officer Program (continued from page 8)

Operationally for the department having the extra manpower will provide for additional foot patrol and bicycle patrols for the downtown area. The reservists will back fill for manpower shortages that can occur with training objectives and personnel issues such as vacations and sick time.

The reservists will benefit from the overall challenge and professionalism they receive from volunteering. Their time spent will build memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. As we continue to build on to our Community Oriented Policing philosophy, the Manitou Springs Police Department strives to build partnerships that will benefit service to the City of Manitou Springs.

The Manitou Springs Police Department is proud to announce the appointment of its first volunteer chaplain, Reverend Dave Hunting. "Tall Rev" has accepted this position and will be riding along with the officers as a resource for critical incidents or calls for service where his pastoral skills are needed. "Tall Rev" is on 24 hour call for the police department. "Tall Rev" is a volunteer deluxe and we are fortunate to have him serve.

If you need additional information regarding the Manitou Springs Police Reserve Program, please call 685-5407 and ask for Sgt Clements, MPO McPherson or Officer Powers. The application process will start sometime in June 2004.

Public Services

By Kelly McMinn, *Public Services Director*

The first two months of this year brought us the promise of abundant moisture with a whole series of snows—consistent, but not much accumulation. March, however, dropped off dramatically with almost no precipitation. The much hoped-for "heavy spring snows" have failed to materialize thus far—leaving us to wonder about water supplies for the up and coming summer. City Council may reinstate the water restrictions should we find our reservoir dropping below the spillway.

Our Water Department's new telemetry systems are on-line. We can now see (from several locations) reservoir levels, amounts of water coming into the reservoir, amounts leaving the reservoir, amounts being received at our French creek intake, the levels in both storage tanks and most of the operations at the water treatment plant itself.

In addition, we are getting the first phase of our leak detection equipment into operation. The Water Conservation Committee is doing the ground work and gathering information for a possible city wide meter replacement program—which will be presented to City Council soon for their consideration.

Our Water Department staff has had their hands full with quite a number of water leaks. Most were minor, but a couple were of the more serious variety. The biggest and most recent being directly in front of the Cliff House, dropped the level of our main storage tank a foot in a very short time. Our

staff quickly had the main isolated and shut down, repaired the problem and had the water back on in a few hours.

A couple of the more common questions we hear at times like these are, "How long will the water be off?" and, "Why weren't we told the water was going to be shut off?"

Both good questions but unfortunately the first question, "How long?" is almost impossible to answer. Every leak is different than the last and requires careful excavation to determine just exactly what is leaking. With the safety of our crew in mind, and the possibility of disrupting other utilities (gas for one) we have to wait for the emergency utility locating service information to come in before we can even start to dig.

Then there is the issue of whether or not we have the proper parts needed to repair the break. With the wide variety of sizes, ages, and materials we have in the ground here it is almost impossible to have every part needed for every eventuality. We do have quite a stock on hand, but still have to (at times) run to someone else's warehouse to get a certain size or type of "dresser" or repair clamp. Not always an easy task at three in the morning or on a holiday.

The other question "Why weren't we told?" is a little more straight-forward. The most obvious answer is, "If we took the time to notify everyone (in some cases a couple hundred people or more), it would take more time than it would to actually fix the problem!"

Your Money Is Worth More In Manitou Springs

By Kitty Clemens, *Economic Development Director*

Unfortunately, most of Colorado is experiencing a deeper dip in the economy than the rest of the nation. Now more than ever, it is important to support your hometown businesses. I know you can't find a dry cleaner or hardware store in Manitou Springs. But, with a little creativity and a lot of "hometown" fun you can find a wide variety of gifts, collectables, fine art and fun products while helping your community.

The mission over the winter months was to personalize the interior of my new home. Manitou Springs offers a plethora of unique decorating items. Many of them are "investment" purchases that you can count on passing as family treasures throughout the generations.

Let's go on a quick tour of our town while I describe some great buys. Our first stop is **Ruxton Trading Post**. This well stocked shop is a great place to find collectables that fit perfectly in any Colorado mountain home. A Western motif is typical fare. I have my eye on a wonderful antique Watch Dog Lye wooden container. It will be the final touch for a hearth renovation project. A few doors down, the **Mountain Man** has a large selection of enamel kitchen ware. I just had to snap up a blue enamel tea pot to blend with my Floe Blue dish collection. **Le Chemere** has a great selection of Fenton Glass. Try stacking 3 together on a deep windowsill. The art glass colors are high quality and take the Colorado sun. Fenton blends particularly well in Victorian homes (Don't remove the

tag on the bottom. This is particularly important to collectors.)

First impressions are everything. I like to be greeted by a well appointed front porch when I come home from work. **The Leprechaun Shoppe** sells great solid brass door knockers that will set your house apart from the rest. The **Navajo Gallery and Gift Shop** has inexpensive rugs and blankets from Mexico that are colorful and welcoming incorporated into a seating area on a covered porch. Don't worry about the sun damage, mine has been getting east sun for 3 years and it still looks great! **The Kaleidoscope** has wonderful wind socks and flags to compliment any home style.

Get your house ready for company and think about one more creative way to help your community while having fun. AAA says the trend for travel is to drive and spend more time with family and friends. Manitou is the perfect place for a family reunion. Why not organize your family to take over an entire motel. We have small motels that could easily be dominated by one family. Just think of it...someone else is doing the laundry. You have a pool and hot tub for relaxation, great daytime recreation and super restaurants in one compact space. Your family will get an economical vacation...you see everyone at one time and you help the economy as well. If you need help getting started, call me at 685-9741...I have planned a few events in my



Public Services (continued from page 10)

and we have new carpet in Council Chambers, new paint and new counter top surface in the Finance Department offices and a new floor in the "outer bathrooms" at City Hall. We also fabricated welded, painted, and installed new handrails at the front door of the library—the north side gets a lot of ice and snow.

Parks staff (in addition to painting) is cleaning up all the winter debris, watering medians and beds, and re-seeding the Seven Minute Spring area. We will post "keep off" signs around the area, but will stop short of fencing it—to encourage our friends and neighbors to stay off the new grass areas and let the new seedlings have a chance.

The intersection of Midland and Shoshone is getting a "facelift" with some water line work, a new culvert pipe, some new gutter work, and some sidewalk, once we get in there and repair the asphalt (coming soon). This particular corner will be much improved and the local traffic will have to find another ditch in

which to get stuck next winter (as this one will have new grates over it). We are, at the time of this writing, welding the new grating together for this project.

In other news, with the approval by City Council, we have purchased a new (and better) street sweeper. The infamous cloud of dust created by our old sweeper should be a thing of the past. The Street Department will be cleaning the downtown streets starting at 3:00 in the morning three days a week. It's been rumored that the new sweeper is even capable of scooping up cars left parking in the no-parking overnight zones!

We plan to be cleaning up that street nearest to your heart--the one that runs in front of your house. Please be patient--we still have only one sweeper and will be in your neighborhood as soon as possible!